1	2	3	4	5
34.	Pondicherry	31220	18209	49428
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	4097	5733	9831
	ALL INDIA:	9050038	22201644	31251682

Government partnership with Mittal Steel

†2095. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make a partnership with Mittal Steel regarding Chiria Mine, Chhattisgarh which has been at present leased out to SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this case is *sub-judice* at Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, how it is possible to make any partnership when the case is *sub- judice*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a), (b) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for partnership with Mittal Steel regarding Chiria Mines in Jharkhand State. Also, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is not in a position to share Chiria Mines as the iron ore resources with SAIL are not sufficient to meet its long term requirement.

(c) Out of six leases of Chiria Mines, three leases namely Ajitaburu, Sukri-Latur, Tatiburu are *sub-judice* at Jharkhand High Court at Ranchi.

Status of agro-based industries in Maharashtra

2096. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the details on existing status of agro-based industries in Maharashtra and the steps taken by Government to promote agro-based industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Eligible entrepreneurs are assisted in setting up village industries, including agro based and food processing industries, under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the Government, implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), in village and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries by availing the margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Considering the importance of agro and food based projects, 40 per cent target under REGP is earmarked/allocated to this group of industry. 6920 village industry units under the 'agro based and food processing industries' group of the village industries under REGP have been set up in Maharashtra since the inception of the scheme with effect trom 1st April, 1995 with margin money assistance of Rs. 2449.76 lakh and estimated generation of additional employment opportunities

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for 40,800 persons. Rs. 32.26 lakh was provided by KVIC to Maharashtra during 2006-07 for various backward forward linkages under REGP. 316 entrepreneurs were trained under Entrepreneurship Development Programme and 4 exhibitions of REGP units were organized during 2006-07 in Maharashtra, as a part of backward forward linkages.

Maharashtra being a coconut growing State has potential for development of coir industry. There are a few rubberised coir manufacturing units in Maharashtra engaged in the production of rubberised coir mattresses and about 15 merchant exporters registered with the Coir Board to export selected items of coir in small quantities. In view of the scope for development of coir industry in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra, Coir Board had organised a number of entrepreneur awareness programmes, quality improvement programmes and entrepreneur development programmes during the recent years.

Besides, the Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been promoting the agro-based rural industries throughout the country, including Maharashtra, by implementing the following schemes:

(i) Rural Industries Service Centres Scheme (RISC), through the KVIC, for setting up of common facility centres (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries. During 2006-07, 3 RISC units were sanctioned in Maharashtra.

(ii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging Programme (PRODIP), through the KVIC, for improved designs and packaging of khadi and village industry (KVI) products. 8 projects (3 under village industries and 5 under khadi) were sanctioned in Maharashtra.

(iii) Rural Industries Consultancy Service Cells (RICS) have been opened by KVIC in various parts of the country for guiding the entrepreneurs, more specifically to the first generation category of them, in preparing bankable projects. Out of 49 such centres in the country, 5 are located in Maharashtra.

(iv) Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) has been launched in October, 2005 for regeneration of traditional industries in 122 identified clusters in khadi, village industries and coir sectors. Of these one khadi and two village industries clusters have been approved for development in Maharashtra.

(v) Development of Production Infrastructure, through Coir Board, for development of production infrastructure, whereunder financial assistance is provided for setting up new coir units at the rate of 25 per cent of the cost of equipment and infrastructural facilities subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.5 lakh for setting coir units and Rs. 50,000 for modernisation of existing coir units and installation of generator sets of upto 11 KVA capacity to run fibre/curled coir units.

(vi) Mahila Coir Yojana, through the Coir Board, for providing trainings in spinning to women artisans and for providing subsidy of 75 per cent of the cost of the ratt. 35 coir artisans were trained and 10 ratts. were

distributed during 2005-06 in Maharashtra and similarly 231 coir artisans were trained and 100 ratts. were distributed during 2006-07.

(vii) Modernisation of Extraction and Processing of Coir Fibre, through the Coir Board, for intensification of research and development efforts for introducing new technology for extraction and processing of coir fibre, development of machinery, product diversification, introduction of new products, etc.

Setting up of khadi and village industries in NER

2097. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of units set up in NER particularly in the State of Sikkim by Khadi and Village Industries Commission during the last three years;

(b) the details of job opportunities created in the region by setting up of such units during this period; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed to set up new industries in Sikkim during the year 2007-08 and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does not set up village industry (VI) units of its own. VI units are set up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) by eligible entrepreneurs in various parts of the country, including North-Eastern Region (NER). For this purpose, margin money assistance is provided to the entrepreneurs by the Government through the KVIC and loans are made available by banks. The number of units set up under the REGP in NER, including Sikkim, during the last three years, is given below:

Sl. No.	States	Number of units set up under REGP in NER		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	43	76	88
2.	Assam	1658	2229	1599
3.	Manipur	102	65	139
4.	Meghalaya	146	206	165
5.	Mizoram	162	365	990
6.	Nagaland	151	316	156
7.	Tripura	233	306	212
8.	Sikkim	139	106	89
	TOTAL NER:	2634	3669	3438